



## FY 2009 NOAA BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS



### National Marine Fisheries Service

#### Habitat Conservation and Restoration Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Program

**NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) FY 2009 budget request includes an increase of \$1.5 million for the Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Program. With this funding, the program will support restoration projects that significantly improve habitat condition and function with benefits for coastal communities.**

##### Overview

The Great Lakes is a premier national aquatic resource, containing approximately 90 percent of the U.S. supply of freshwater. The geography, surface area, and volume of this freshwater resource have great economic, ecological, and societal importance; making restoration, protection, and sustainable use of the lakes a national priority.

NMFS seeks \$1.5 million in FY 2009 to launch the NOAA-wide Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Program. This program will use NOAA expertise to address lake-wide ecosystem problems, such as persistent contaminants in sediment and the loss of high-quality fish and wildlife habitat. NOAA will build on existing expertise and ongoing partnerships to address state, local, and tribal priority needs.

In an initial call for partnership proposals, NMFS received seven applications requesting \$21 million over 3 years. With funding, these partnerships could catalyze habitat restoration projects that will benefit coastal resources through improved habitat in Great Lakes Areas of Concern.

**NOAA will address priority needs and implement existing recommendations.**

The Great Lakes Interagency Task Force, the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy, and others have identified critical needs to protect and restore valuable Great Lakes habitat. This request will allow NOAA to build on its ongoing efforts to:

- Establish a cross-NOAA Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Program office at NOAA's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory.

- Use a competitive process and a partnership approach to provide funding and technical assistance to restoration projects.
- Fund research and monitoring activities to address critical project-specific restoration needs and improve the science of Great Lakes restoration.



*American eels, which have experienced population declines in the St. Lawrence/Lake Ontario region, are benefiting from restoration such as dam removals or adding fishways.*

**NOAA's unique contribution to Great Lakes restoration includes expertise in:**

- Restoring habitat and addressing contamination.
- Using local and regional partnerships for restoration.
- Applying a science-based ecosystem approach.

| NOAA FY 2009 Budget Request (\$ in Millions)                        |                   |                             |                                  |
|---|-------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| BUDGET LINE:<br>Habitat Conservation<br>and Restoration             | FY2008<br>Enacted | FY2009<br>Program<br>Change | FY2009<br>Pres<br>Bud<br>Request |
| FISHERIES HABITAT RESTORATION<br>Great Lakes Habitat<br>Restoration | \$0               | \$1.5                       | \$1.5                            |

**For more information, contact: Patricia Montanio, Director, NMFS Office of Habitat Conservation, at 301-713-2325 or visit [www.habitat.noaa.gov](http://www.habitat.noaa.gov).**